



PREVALENCE OF HEAD LICE INFESTATION AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS IN A REGION OF NORTH HARYANA

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ABSTRACT

The different -different skin infection may take place in children in the school age group. Because children are nosy and mobile, they come in to contact with a variety of people and animals. The close proximity in the school setting provides chance to be exposed to infection agents. (Viruses, bacteria, fungus, insects and animals) in addition, children tend to share personal items. One of most common infection in girls is head lice. Head lice are one of the commonest ectoparasites of man in and spending their entire life cycle on the host. There are three distinct varieties of lice which are specific for human.

Objectives of the study are : to assess the prevalence of head lice among school going girls. To find out factor influencing the head lice. Hypotheses were formulated on the basis of objectives and statistically analyzed the data which is collected from sample of 100 girls in ambala district of Haryana. Non- Experimental descriptive Survey method was adopted. The data is collected by using demographic variable assessment tool and physical assessment Performa. The result of study showed that 48% girls had this infection, personal hygiene, economical status, residential area; education of parents has the factor which influences the prevalence of head lice.

KEYWORDS: Prevalence, Head lice, School going girls.

INTRODUCTION:

The different -different skin infection may take place in children in the school age group. Because children are nosy and mobile, they come in to contact with a variety of people and animals. The close proximity in the school setting provides chance to be exposed to infection agents. (Viruses, bacteria, fungus, insects and animals) in addition, children tend to share personal items. One of most common infection in girls is head lice. Head lice are one of the commonest ectoparasites of man in and spending their entire life cycle on the host. There are three distinct varieties of lice which are specific for human. Human louse infestation is also called pediculosis, which can spread quickly if left unchecked. In a group of people, such factor as age, race influence the course and distribution of the disease.¹

Head lice feed on human blood several time a day and live close to human scalp and spread by direct contact with the hair of an infected person. Spread by contact with clothing or the other personnel items used by an infected person. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.²

Need of the Study: Head lice have a worldwide distribution and higher among children than adults Head lice are globally prevalent human parasites that cause considerable distress to affected children and their family. Head louse is one of the health problems in many part of world. Head lice contamination is common worldwide and has been proposed as major health problem not only in poor countries but also in developed and industrial countries. Every year over 12 million Americans are contaminated by this parasite. Studies carried out in different parts of the world have reported prevalence for head lice in children. The rate of contamination has been estimated to be 16.59% in India.³

A survey was conducted by WHO shows that prevalence of head lice In Malaysia was 308101 children. Among them 10.7% of the children were infested, of which 34% were economically poor children the highest rate of infestation was among the Indian 13 ethnic group and the lowest was among the Chinese.. In Tanzania 5.34% of persons examined had head lice infestation. The average age of infested individuals was 12.5 years and infestation was more common among girls. In Ethiopia survey conducted of 1482 elementary school children in North Ethiopia for skin disease 66.5% of them had head lice.⁴

Operational Definition:

Head lice: a tiny, wingless parasitic insect that lives among human hairs and feeds on tiny amounts of blood drawn from the scalp.

Prevalence: Number of school girls having head lices problem.

School Going Girls: It refers to girls who enrolled in government schools of Haryana and age between 9 – 14 years.

Objectives of Study:

- To assess the prevalence of head lice among school going girls.
- To find out factor influencing the head lice.

Sample: The sample of the present study consisted of 100 school girls

Tools: In the present study, the following tools were used demographic variable assessment tool and physical assessment Performa.

Method of Research: Non- Experimental descriptive Survey method was adopted. Total enumeration sampling were using to choose the sample. For data collection observation and self report technique were used.

Inclusion Criteria for sample.

The children who were:-

- Age 9-14 years.
- Studying in Government school.
- Available at the time of data collection.
- Are willing to participate in the study

Analysis:

Table 1:
Frequency and Percentage Distribution of School Going Girls in Terms of demographic variable

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS	FREQUENCY (f)	PERCENTAGE (%)
1. Age in year:		
1.1 9-10	8	8%
1.2 11-12	27	27%
1.3 13-14	65	65%
2. Class:		
2.1 6 th	27	27%
2.2 7 th	28	28%
2.3 8 th	24	24%
2.4 9 th	21	21%
3. Religious:		
3.1 Hindu	90	90%
3.2 Sikh	3	3%
3.3 Muslim	6	6%
3.4 Christian	1	1%
4. Type of Family:		
4.1 Nuclear	36	36%
4.2 Joint	60	60%
4.3 Extended	4	4%
5. Family Income:		
5.1. ≤ 3,000.	17	17%
5.2. 3,001 - 5,000.	42	42%
5.3. 5,001 - 7,000.	14	14%
5.4. 7,001 - 10,000	24	24%
5.5. >10,000	3	3%

6. Number of Sibling:		
6.1 1-2	33	33%
6.2 3-4	57	57%
6.3 5-6	10	10%
7. Mother's Education:		
7.1 Non formal	37	37%
7.2 Primary	24	24%
7.3 Secondary	30	30%
7.4 Senior secondary	9	9%
8. Father's Education:		
8.1 Non formal	18	18%
8.2 Primary	33	33%
8.3 Secondary	27	27%
8.4 Senior secondary	22	22%
9. Father's Occupation:		
9.1 Unemployed	35	35%
9.2 Private service	14	14%
9.3 Government service	9	9%
9.4 Business	42	42%
10. Mother's Occupation:		
10.1 Unemployed	75	75%
10.2 Private service	8	8%
10.3 Government service	6	6%
10.4 Business	11	11%
11. Family Members:		
11.1 0-5	42	42%
11.2 6-10	42	42%
11.3 11-15	3	3%
11.4 16-20	13	13%

Table 1 depicted that the (65%) were in age group of 13-14 years. Most of the students (28%) were in 7th class. Majority of the students (90%) were belongs to Hindu. More than half students (60%) were belongs to joint family. More than half family had monthly income above 5,001 Rs. (59%). Less than half of subject (37%) were had non-formal education. Less than half of subject (33%) were had primary education the occupation of the father were (35%) in employed where (75%) in unemployment. Most of family member were (82%) in 0-10 members.

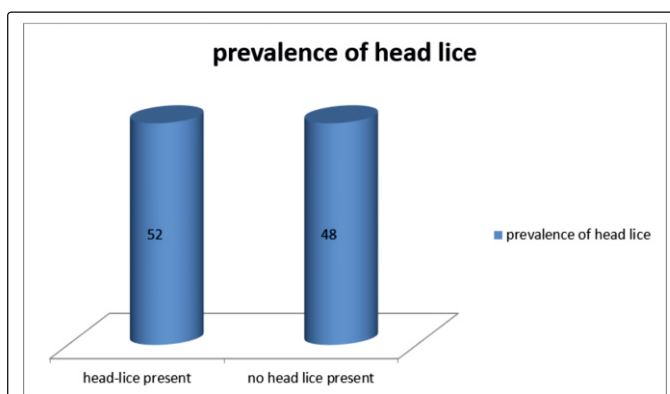


Figure 1: Prevalence of head lice among school going girls

Table 2:
Frequency and percentage of the factor influencing the head lice.

Factors	FREQUENCY (f)	PERCENTAGE (%)
1. Type of House:		
1.1 Kaccha	26	26%
1.2 Pacca	74	74 %
2. Number of Rooms:		
2.1 1-2	86	86%
2.2 3-5	10	10%
2.3 More than 5	4	4 %
3. Ventilation:		
3.1 Adequate	78	78%
3.2 Inadequate	20	20%
4. Drainage System:		
4.1 Open	82	82%
4.2 Closed	18	18%
5. Water Facilities:		
5.1 Tap	72	72%
5.2 Hand pump	28	28%

6. Previous History:		
6.1 NO	58	58%
6.2 Yes	42	42%
7. Previous Treatment:		
7.1 No	77	77%
7.2 Yes	23	23%
8. Previous Knowledge:		
8.1 Yes	36	36%
8.2 No	64	64%

Table 2 depicted that the factor influencing the head lice type of house, majority of girls live in pucca house. 86% have 1-2 numbers of rooms at home, have good ventilation, drainage and water facilities. 42% girls have previous of head lices and only 23% took the treatment. 36% girls have previous knowledge regarding head lice and their treatment.

MAJOR FINDING:

Finding showed that most of students (65%) were in age group of 13-14 years. Most of students (28%) were in 7th class. More than half of family had monthly income above 5000Rs (59%). More than half of the students lived (74%) in pucca house and they had adequate ventilation in there house (78%). Majority of the student had (82%) open drainage system and (72%) of students had tap water supply. Most of the girls don't had (58%) history of head lice and they don't had (64%) any previous knowledge regarding prevention of head lice. The majority of girls had (52%) a history of head lice.

Implication:

1. Health care professionals supervising the knowledge of peoples regarding the head lice.
2. Information material in the form of pamphlets; posters and informational booklet should be made available by the Administration for the girls.
3. The community health nurse should be include encouraging the awareness among girls and family members regarding head lice and hygiene treatment to relive from head lice through the uses of various awareness programme including health education.

CONCLUSION:

School teachers and parents should pay attention regarding prevention of head lice.

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